

VII. SPARSE VEGETATION

VII.A.1.N.a. Cliffs with sparse vascular vegetation

VII.A.1.N.a.200. WOODED BEDROCK SPARSELY VEGATATED ALLIANCE

Wooded Bedrock Sparsely Vegetated Alliance

PINUS PONDEROSA SLICKROCK SPARSE VEGETATION

Ponderosa Pine Slickrock Sparse Vegetation

ELEMENT CONCEPT

GLOBAL SUMMARY: This association has only been described from Zion NP. Until further inventory is completed there is no global information.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

USFWS Wetland System: Not Applicable

Zion National Park Environment: This association occurs on steep Navajo sandstone slopes above 6000 feet elevation. Sandy soils accumulate in rock crevices to support opportunistic vegetation. There is high cover of exposed bedrock.

Global Environment: This association has only been described from Zion NP. Until further inventory is completed there is no global information.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Zion National Park Vegetation: Plant species cover in these stands that occupy Navajo sandstone slopes are too sparse to classify them as woodland, shrublands or grasslands. Cover of *Pinus ponderosa* is between 5-20% and usually less than 15% cover. Other tree species may include *Pinus edulis*, *Pinus monophylla*, and/or *Juniperus osteosperma*. *Pinus ponderosa* trees typically have stunted growth, with heights averaging 10 m or less. Shrubs that commonly occur are *Arctostaphylos patula*, *Amelanchier utahensis*, *Quercus turbinella*, and *Cercocarpus intricatus*. Cover of shrubs is less than tree cover. The herbaceous layer is very sparse and inconsistent in composition. Even with the sparse vegetation cover, species composition may be relatively diverse, e.g., 27 species were recorded from one plot.

Global Vegetation: This association has only been described from Zion NP. Until further inventory is completed there is no global information.

Global Dynamics: Information not available.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Zion National Park

Stratum

TREE CANOPY

TALL SHRUB

GRAMINOID

FORB

Species

Pinus ponderosa, *Pinus monophylla*

Amelanchier utahensis, *Arctostaphylos patula*, *Cercocarpus intricatus*

Aristida purpurea, *Poa fendleriana*, *Sporobolus cryptandrus*

Comandra umbellata, *Heterotheca villosa*, *Phlox austromontana*, *Stephanomeria* spp.

Global

Stratum

Information not available.

Species

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Zion National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
TREE CANOPY	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>

Global

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Information not available.	

GLOBAL SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS:

Information not available.

GLOBAL STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION COMMENTS

Global Conservation Status Rank: G?.

Global Comments: Information not available.

ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION

Zion National Park Range: This association occurs frequently on Navajo sandstone formations of the eastern side of Zion National Park and Kolob Canyons region.

Global Range: This association has currently only been described from Zion NP in southwestern Utah.

Nations: US

States/Provinces: UT

ELEMENT SOURCES

Zion National Park Inventory Notes: Plots: RH26, 127

Classification Confidence: 3 **Identifier:** CEG002972

REFERENCES: None available.